

CONFIDENTIAL.]

## REPORT

[No. 17 of 1879.]

OF

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 26th April 1879.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly ...	200	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
3	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	22nd April 1879.
4	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh ...	658	15th ditto.
5	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	
6	"Bardwān Sanjivānī" ... ..	Burdwān ...	.....	15th and 22nd April 1879.
7	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca ...	400	20th April 1879.
8	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly ...	1,168	18th ditto.
9	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly ...	200	12th ditto.
10	"Hindu Hitaishinī" ... ..	Dacca ...	300	19th ditto.
11	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye... ..	200	16th ditto.
12	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore ...	.....	18th ditto.
13	"Pratikār" ... ..	Ditto ...	235	18th ditto.
14	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākinīā, Rangpore ...	250	17th ditto.
15	"Sādhārānī" ... ..	Chinsurah ...	516	20th ditto.
16	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	21st ditto.
17	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad ...	.....	
18	"Sanjivānī" ... ..	Mymensingh ...	.....	18th ditto.
19	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta ...	5,500	19th ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
20	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
21	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto ...	550	12th and 16th to 24th April 1879.
22	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	17th to 24th April 1879.
23	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	625	12th to 19th ditto.
24	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
25	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore ...	.....	11th April 1879.
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
26	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta ...	400	19th ditto.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
27	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	16th ditto.
28	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	17th and 24th April 1879.
29	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	21st April 1879.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
30	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto ...	250	18th ditto.



## POLITICAL.

**BHARAT MITRA,**  
April 17th, 1879.

WRITING on the subject of the Affghan war, the *Bhārat Mitra*, of the 17th April, remarks:—It appears from the circumstances that have recently transpired in

Affghanistan, and the preparations that are being made by Yakub Khan, that the war will not soon end. Yakub is determined to fight; and the British therefore must continue the war, no matter whether they like it or not. If they are victorious, they will either have to beat a retreat, as in 1842, or, for the sake of retaining in their hands "a scientific frontier," will have to expend lakhs of rupees. In either case, this country will have to bear the expense.

**PRATIKAR,**  
April 16th, 1879.

2. In reviewing the chief events of the last Bengali year, the *Pratikār* of the 15th April, thus refers to the Affghan war:—A wave from Europe reached India.

The Russo-Turkish war was now converted into the Anglo-Affghan or the Indo-Affghan war. And why should not this be the case? If the English Exchequer had had to bear the costs of this undertaking, the Ministry could never have ventured to declare war on such a light pretext. Whatever that might be, unfortunately for India it was declared, and the costs thrown upon the shoulders of this country. England got Cyprus, and, as a consequence, we have had to pay for this Affghan war. We went to lay our grievances before the Viceroy, but he heaped abuse upon our heads; and we came back in silent submission which is characteristic of slaves.

**DACCA PRAKASH,**  
April 20th, 1879.

3. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 20th April, thoroughly approves of the sentiments of the proclamation recently issued by the Chief Commissioner of Burmah

A war with Burmah. in reference to the affairs at Mandalay, and admits the wisdom of the moderate policy adopted by the British Government on this occasion. It is to be hoped that no extreme measures will be taken before the pacific means now pursued have had a fair trial and failed. The warlike counsels urged on Government by the *Englishman* and the *Bangoon Times* are deprecated with great force.

**SAHACHAR,**  
April 21st, 1879.

4. We take the following from the *Sahachar*, of the 21st April:—  
Lord Lytton and the loyalty of the Bengalis. Owing to their ill-luck, the chief ruler of the land has become unfavourable to the Bengalis.

A consideration of the actions of Lord Lytton will show that this unlucky people have really incurred his displeasure. Through what sin or ill-luck on their part this sad state of things has been brought about it is not easy to tell; but there is no reason to doubt the fact. This is not merely a supposition on our part; it is clearly noticeable in the actions of Lord Lytton. His Excellency takes every opportunity to give expression to his feelings in this matter. The other day, he rebuked the members of the British Indian Association; and now, on a more recent occasion in the course of his address at the Convocation of the Senate of the Punjab University, he has clearly hinted that the Bengalis are wanting in loyalty. Since the Viceroy is so much displeased with the Bengalis, they must have doubtless done something to incur his displeasure; but we do not admit that they are disloyal. Lord Lytton is gifted with a high order of statecraft: he is an eloquent and affable scholar, and possessed of a high sense of duty. He is also a poet; but he lacks one of the essential qualifications of the highest order of poets, namely, an intimate knowledge of the human nature. He has not been able to discern the nature of the Bengalis, and has thus set them down as disloyal. This is an error. Whatever faults they may have, in the matter of loyalty, they do not yield to anybody. Lord Lytton's predecessors in office always testified to this. The Sovereign is always looked upon by them as a god. It is this trait in the national character which



made them submit patiently to the oppressive rule of the Mahomedans. It will not do to say that they did this because of their weakness: the seeds of sedition, once implanted in the minds of a people, make them desperate and reckless of consequences. The Editor then defines "loyalty," which he regards as a willingness on the part of a people to abide by the law of the land. Now, the Bengalis have never been found wanting in this respect. The writings of the Native Press are misconstrued owing to the ignorance of the Bengali language on the part of the rulers. Even the Vernacular Press Act is an outcome of this ignorance. Lord Lytton, as a poet, ought to know, though he may not, that the Hindu rhetoric mentions a figure of speech by which panegyric may be written, while the words employed are those of censure. As to loyalty to the person of the ruler, the Bengalis possess the full measure of it. After dwelling on their loyal devotion to the British Government, the Editor remarks that the protests occasionally made by them in the columns of newspapers, and in memorials to Government against public measures, cannot be regarded as disloyal. Now that through education they have learnt their rights, and ask the rulers to redeem the pledges already made to them, the Viceroy blames them for being a discontented people. But what made them discontented? Doubtless English education imparted to them by the British Government.

5. We extract the following observations on the Affghan war from a Review of the Bengali year 1285 in the same paper:—We do not see what good will ultimately accrue from this war; nor do we believe that Russia will ever advance against the British lion. Hence it is, that we have spoken of the present war as an undertaking which will not bring us any advantages. But since there must be war, Government must prosecute it, and be furnished with the necessary funds by this country.

The Affghan War.

SAHACHAR,  
April 21st, 1879.

6. We extract the following from an article on the Zulu war in the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 22nd April, in which the Editor, after remarking that although

The Zulu War.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
April 22nd, 1879.

Cetewayo is regarded by many Englishmen as quite innocent in the present quarrel with England, proceeds to say that, since he has now got a victory over the English, nothing short of his subjugation or defeat will satisfy the British Government. "About 40 years ago, the British troops were once defeated in the Cabul war; but although after that they deluged the country from one end of it to the other with Affghan blood, the anger of the British nation, owing to that defeat, has not yet subsided. Nor will this feeling go off until Affghanistan is quite trampled under foot, and an English representative sits on the throne of the Amir. The Sepoy war broke out in India. The independent Native Princes and the leading men of the country did not join the rebels; nay, almost everybody in India sought to put down the infuriated sepoys; and although the rulers flooded the country with the blood of the fanatic rebels, their anger has not been yet appeased. Ever since the occurrence of the Sepoy war, a rigorous system of administration has been introduced into the country, which is every day being made more so. So that, no matter whether the Zulu King is at fault or not, since the British troops have been defeated by him, he must be regarded as a culprit, and there will be no mercy shown to him until his throne is subverted."

7. We take the following from the opening paragraph of another article in the same paper:—There lie three independent kingdoms within (*sic*) the territorial jurisdiction of British India, namely, (1) Affghanistan,

The British Government and the independent states on the frontiers of India.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.



(2) Nepal, and (3) Burmah. If Russia had not made her appearance in Central Asia, it is probable the British Government would not have put forth efforts to conquer Affghanistan. The rulers never undertake to do a thing unless it promotes their self-interests; and Affghanistan is such an inhospitable country that its conquest is not so difficult as keeping it in subjection. Nepal also does not hold out any temptations for the British; while, on the other hand, its conquest is not likely to be easy. The British could not defeat the Nepalese in battle; and consequently they found it more advantageous to keep a neighbouring power like Nepal in good humour than to be quarrelling with it. At any rate, if the Goorkhas had not assisted the British Government on the occasion of the Sepoy revolt, the latter would have found it difficult to put down the rebels. The British, however, have not been indifferent to Burmah, in the affairs of which country they have always interfered.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
April 22nd, 1879.

8. On the same subject, the same paper remarks that, if the Burmese King has really resolved upon annoying the British lion, his days must then be numbered. There have been, however, so many false rumours afloat about him that nothing ought to be believed until after a careful enquiry.

The King of Burmah and the British Government.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
April 11th, 1879.

9. Adverting to the memorial to be presented to Parliament by the Indian Association on the subject of the costs of the Affghan war and the repeal of the cotton duties, the *Murshidabad Patriká*, of the 11th April, remarks:—Of course, there is no harm in making a memorial; but we know it will be to no purpose, and means so much waste of time. The Association regretted the tone of the Viceroy's reply to the address of the British Indian Association on the same subjects. The less, however, this matter is discussed the better.

10. The same paper complains that one of the oldest and the most influential of the Native Papers, the *Som Prakásh*, has been, through an action of Government, obliged to stop publication. The public keenly feel the loss. The punishment inflicted, instead of proving a wholesome discipline, has destroyed it once for all. No notice would have been taken of the offence if it had been committed by a paper published in the English language. As it is, the *Som Prakásh* has died for its efforts to serve a poor language, namely, the Bengali. The paper can now be revived only if Lord Lytton, in his generosity, chooses to do so.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA.

Government and the *Som Prakásh*.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA.

11. The same paper observes, in reference to section 12 of the Pleaders' and Mukhtars' Bill, that it will deprive the mukhtars of a long enjoyed and just privilege, namely, the custom of receiving commissions "on remuneration paid to legal practitioners." Should the provisions of this section be carried out, there would be considerable hardship occasioned to them. It is really to be regretted that, although they have to undergo certain prescribed examinations and pay fees for enrolment as mukhtars, no rights sanctioned by law have been conferred upon them. The salaries allowed them by their clients are exceedingly low, while the work demanded is vast. That they have continued to practise, all this notwithstanding, is owing to the fact that the low remuneration granted them by the clients could so long be supplemented by the commissions obtained from the legal practitioners. The Bill now aims at the closing of this source of income. Properly considered, there is nothing immoral in the practice of granting commissions to the mukhtars. The

The Pleaders' and Mukhtars' Bill.



payment is nothing more than remuneration allowed for the assistance they render to the counsel. The writer suggests that certain specific rights should be conferred upon the duly qualified mukhtars, and their privileges guarded by law. The subject should receive the attention of the Legislature.

12. We extract the following observations from a long article in the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 15th April, in which the leading events of the Bengali year 1285, that has just closed, are reviewed:—At the beginning of last year, so far as native papers were concerned, clouds gathered thick on the political horizon, and, towards the end, the thunderbolt of the Vernacular Press Act fell on the head of the *Som Prakash*, the leading paper, and reduced him to ashes. This sad incident of the year that has just closed will remain a deep and ineffaceable blot on the annals of British India and on the administration of Lord Lytton. As our *Shástras* have it, in the present *Kali age*, the evil so preponderates over the good that it is three times the latter; and the three evils which made their appearance last year were (1) the taking away of the liberty of the Native Press, the means of giving expression to public opinion; (2) the disarming of the people; and (3) the throwing of obstacles in the way of making memorials; or the three evils may have been represented by (1) drought, famines, and other natural calamities; (2) the indescribable harassment and oppression of the people caused by the operation of the license-tax and other imposts; and (3) the great calamities of war, &c. But this is not all. A little reflection will show that the change which has of late taken place in the policy of the British Government in three points appeared in a striking light during last year— (1). The distrust, on the part of Government, of the loyalty of the people. This distrust first manifested itself in 1858, and received its complete development last year. It was this which gave birth to the Vernacular Press Act and the Arms' Act. (2). The opposing of the current of the progress that had shown itself in many directions in India. The course of improvement which, for the last hundred years past, the British nation has fostered by means of different public measures, and under the influence of which India was slowly waking from her sleep of ages to be raised in the scale of nations; this many sided improvement, physical, mental, social and political, that was being effected by means of education, contact with Englishmen, good laws, and the courtesy of the ruling race, was at once retarded last year. The Vernacular Press, the chief auxiliary of this improvement, was the first to be reduced to a critical condition. (3). The rigorous policy which was inaugurated in the Indian administration on the 1st January 1877 has become a source of great danger to this country. Under this policy, India has become an integral portion of the British Empire, but the effects of the complicated diplomacy of England in relation to the affairs of Europe have constantly kept it in a state of unrest. It is for this that, affected by the results of the deep and incomprehensible policy of Lord Beaconsfield in Europe, this poor country is to be made to pay the whole costs of the Affghan war, which is an outcome of that policy. To the same cause are to be attributed the proposal to reduce the armies of the Native Princes, and the lack of funds for carrying on the increasingly difficult and complicated affairs of the Indian administration. The costs of the administration have so enormously increased that, even with the proceeds of the license and other oppressive taxes which suck dry the life blood of the people, the Exchequer is as empty as ever. These taxes are causing horrible oppressions and discontent throughout the country, as witness the Surat riots of last year. The introduction of Imperialism has not been beneficial in any way.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,  
April 15th, 1879.



BHARAT MIHIR.  
April 15th, 1879.

13. We extract the following from a long editorial in the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 15th April, containing a Review of the leading events of the last Bengali year:—Except

The Education Department.  
in the matter of education, in no other department of the administration could the country be regarded as fortunate during the period under review. The Education Department had long been neglected by Government; and educated young men were obliged to betake themselves to other professions than service therein. Much, however, was done last year in this connection by the introduction of grades among the subordinate officers, the establishment of scholarships for females, and the re-investment by Sir Ashley Eden of educational officers with all their former powers.

BHARAT MIHIR,

The present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is universally acknowledged to be an able and active person; and although he has not caused any mighty revolutions in the administration, still, in certain matters, he is making a slow onward movement. He is not indifferent to the claims of natives to high appointments in the public service. It is during his administration, that a Mahomedan gentleman, a Subordinate Judge, has been made an Additional Judge. It moreover appears likely that His Honor will be able to remove, even though it were to some extent, the accumulated scandals in the Road Cess Department, wherein he has ordered the appointment of native in place of the European Engineers. If his orders are not allowed to become a dead letter, great improvement is likely to be secured in this branch of the public service. His Honor has displayed great firmness in the matter of the Nuddea Road Cess embezzlements. He would never have lost the affection of the people of this country if his treatment of the Native Newspapers and of the Calcutta Municipality had not been so harsh, narrow, and unjust. Although the Meherpore case did not lead to any satisfactory results, still there was no lack of efforts on the part of Sir Ashley Eden to make a searching investigation.

In the deadly contest which took place between Russia and Turkey, the latter had hopes of aid from England. The Russo-Turkish war and the part of England. The English Cabinet, however, when the time for action came, contented themselves with only making a military demonstration at Malta, while the dismemberment of Turkey was proceeding apace. Beyond attending to their own interests, they did nothing for the sinking power. As a consequence of the secret support, however, which England had promised to Turkey, the Amir Shere Ali died as an exile, while the people of Affghanistan lost their ancient independence at the hands of the British.

Hardly has the war in Affghanistan come to an end, when difficulties have cropped up in Burmah. The horrible and brutal atrocities perpetrated by the king are unparalleled in history, and are such as may put to shame even the shade of an Aurungzebe. The sending of a British regiment has been most opportune. The king desires to enter into a treaty; but we do not see how there could be a treaty with such an inhuman monster. Outraged humanity demands his dethronement. The period of Lord Beaconsfield's rule is not to be a quiet one; and it is not only in India that his fireworks have been displayed. There is a Zulu war in Africa.

Two Acts passed last year have cast a stain on the annals of the British administration in India. A new policy has shown itself in the work of administration ever since Lord Lytton came to this country, and it was inaugurated on the 1st January 1877. Force is the principle of this policy, which the

Legislation.

A war with Burmah.



Government of India has sedulously sought to carry out in all its actions. Whatever was so long regarded as impossibilities under the British Government in India, even things which were not even dreamt of, have all been possible, nay practicable, under the administration of Lord Lytton. After the Vernacular Press and the Arms' Acts, there is nothing impossible with the British administration in India.

Manchester has gained her end; and the Government of India by granting a partial remission of the cotton duties has shown an instance of unexampled (?) justice.

The state of the Administration.

The Exchequer is empty; there is war on the Western Frontiers of India; while, for the purposes of ordinary contingent expenditure, a loan is to be incurred; and yet Government has, in one breath, thrown away a revenue of 20 lakhs of rupees a year. In seeking to represent the above in temperate though firm language to Her Majesty's representative, the members of the British Indian Association, a time-honored institution, have been dishonored. We are indeed fortunate if the occurrence of no new evil be regarded as a fortunate circumstance. There has been no income tax, but it is not known how long the Affghan war will continue, or how far its effects will reach.

14. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 19th April, directs the attention of Government to a fearful increase of intemperance at the present time among all classes of the

The prevalence of intemperance.

people. The country is being ruined by the prevalence of this vice; even women have taken to it. The indifference of the authorities, and the introduction of the outstill system, which brings spirituous liquors within the easy reach of all, have had much to do with the increase of the evil. Considering that Government has passed a law for the punishment of gambling, it is strange that the spread of a vice more injurious in its effects than the former should be left unnoticed.

HINDU HITASHINI,  
April 19th, 1879.

15. The *Sádháraní*, of the 20th April, remarks, in reference to the Vernacular Press Act, that, although when the measure was passed, the Editor had for some

Act IX of 1878.

time given way to despondency, he, however, soon perceived that Government had taken that cruel step only under the influence of an error which it would hasten to lay aside as soon as it was convinced of its nature. It was felt that the Act would either be amended, or serve merely as an up-lifted rod to warn, and not unduly directed to crush the Native Editors; and the reasons for thinking thus were—(1) The earnest manner in which the educated natives protested against the measure, held meetings, and sent memorials to Parliament. (2) The apparent leniency shown by Government after the Act had been passed. The order issued by the local Government to the Editors to enter into bail-bonds was cancelled at the instance of the Governor-General. All this seemed to produce an impression that the authorities had relented. (3) The creation of the office of Press Commissioner. Although the functions of this officer are not even yet clearly intelligible to the native public, still the knowledge that there was now an adviser whose good offices might be relied upon in case of any difficulty served to strengthen the editors in their views regarding the attitude of Government towards the Vernacular Press Act. (4) The circumstance that many eminent officers of Government were opposed to the Act; and (5) The small majority which, in Parliament, voted in favour of the measure.

SADHARANI.  
April 20th, 1879.

#### EDUCATION.

16. The *Sahachar*, of the 21st April, is informed that this year the heat is oppressive in the 24-Pergunnahs, Hooghly, Burdwan, Dacca, Mymensingh,

Extension of the summer vacation  
in schools recommended.

SAHACHAR,  
April 21st, 1879.



Gya, and other districts of Bengal. In this connection the writer suggests that, instead of closing the educational institutions in the cold season, as is the practice at present, the summer vacation should be extended to two months; for the crowding of a large number of boys and teachers in one place in this hot season is both inconvenient and injurious to health. The attention of the Director of Public Instruction is called to this matter.

## LOCAL.

SAMVAD  
PRABHAKAR,  
April 12th, 1879.

17. The Sydpore correspondent of the *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 12th April, directs the attention of Government to the inconvenience the passengers on the Northern Bengal State Railway are subjected to from the lack of any arrangement on the part of the authorities of the railway to supply drinking water or refreshments at the different stations. It is said that there are men appointed to supply the first-named article in some of the principal stations, but, as a matter of fact, they are not found when wanted; while, regarding the latter, the high fees which Mr. Drury, the Traffic Superintendent, is said to levy from the purveyors of confectionery, prevent them from serving the passengers on the station platforms.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
April 15th, 1879.

18. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 15th April, remarks:—Not a drop of rain has fallen during the last two months in Mymensingh. No one has been able to sow the *aus*. What was sown before has all been parched by the heat. The prices are steadily rising. Famine is an unavoidable contingency.

SADHARANI,  
April 20th, 1879.

19. The *Sādhāranī*, of the 20th April, complains of the wretched state of the roads in the Chinsurah and Hooghly Municipality, which are perfectly covered up with dust. The ways of Government are indeed mysterious: while there is a Sanitary Commissioner who annually publishes long reports, the population is being decimated by plagues, and no notice is taken of the matter. Krishnaghur is being denuded of its inhabitants by small-pox; and the medical officer is said to have attributed this scourge to the accumulation of dust on the roads in the town. There is the same complaint in Chinsurah, but it is unheeded. The police, an inefficient and all-devouring body, is a hobby of the authorities. The writer, in conclusion, asks Mr. Cornish, the Magistrate, to entrust Babu Shyāmādhav Rāya with the affairs of the Municipality.

SAHACHAR,  
April 21st, 1879.

20. The *Sahachar*, of the 21st April, has the following:—We regret to hear that, as was the case with the old Howrah police, the inhabitants of Baidyabati have had great misunderstanding and quarrel with the local police. This is not desirable. We trust that Government will be pleased to enquire into the matter, and attend to the removal of the complaints of the inhabitants.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
April 12th, 1879.

21. The *Grāmvartā Prakāshikā*, of the 12th April, in a pathetic article, takes leave of its readers. The paper has been in existence for the last sixteen years, and during this long period, through adversity, debt, and other vicissitudes, has manfully sought to do its duty. In the course of its journalistic career, it has exposed many cases of oppression and rendered great service to the public in other ways. But now, owing to the indifference of its subscribers, nay from their positive dishonesty and their silent refusal to pay what they owe, it has been obliged to shut up shop. This is the last issue of the weekly *Grāmvartā*. The Editor will henceforth devote his energies to the improvement of the monthly journal of the same name.



which he hopes to make a perfectly readable magazine. After addressing a mild rebuke to his defaulting subscribers, through whose action the paper is thus obliged to come to a premature end, the Editor dwells on the lack of sympathy on the part of Government with the struggling Native Press. The discontinuance of the weekly reports to the Native Editors, the passing of the Vernacular Press Act, and the disfavour with which Bengali newspapers are, as rule, viewed by the authorities, are noticed with much regret.

22. In another article, the same paper dwells on the poverty of the people. In fact, this is almost the only blot upon the otherwise beneficent British rule under which justice is impartially administered. The high prices have occasioned considerable hardship to the poor. At the present time, the existing means of earning a livelihood are not sufficient for the people. Owing to the gradual diminution, on the one hand, in the fertility of the soil, and an increase of population on the other, agriculture alone fails to supply the growing wants of the country. Add to this, that it is in a backward condition. What commerce the country has, is not in the hands of the natives; while arts and manufactures have been ruined through foreign competition. The people hardly ever obtain high appointments in the public service. Even clerkships are becoming day by day less available. There is no admission into the military service allowed to the natives. In view of this state of things, it is not to be wondered at that the country is poor. Poverty is the source of all other miseries; and we ask the British Government to remove it. If this could be done, the present rule would be unsurpassed in excellence. The people are really attached to it, but owing to their poverty they complain, and, in doing so, occasionally express themselves in a disagreeable way.

23. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 15th April, comes out in an enlarged form, and thus explains the reasons which led him to take this step:—In these evil days which have now come upon the Native Press, when Act IX is burning in all its fury, why does the *Bhārat Mihir*, instead of being frightened, come out in an enlarged form? If the days of the Native Press have really come to an end, what is the use of decorating the body when death is at hand? The question is not an unnatural one. We do not know what reply can be given to it; nor are we desirous of making any on the present occasion. Of one thing, however, we are firmly assured, namely, that the Power which created two hundred millions of human beings in this poor and conquered country is not indifferent to their welfare; that it has not been content with only having forged chains of iron for them. Nothing can now hinder the progress which has, after the sufferings of ages, set in in India. Neither laws, nor any other acts of Government, can ever extinguish the power of society. Under the influence of English civilization, and through contact with Englishmen, a new force, the force of society, has appeared in this country; while the people have felt a new impetus in the direction of improvement. This power and this impetus, divided in many directions and in various forms, are working in society and manifesting their existence in different ways, such as the newspaper, the association, the school, and the conversation. This force cannot be put down. If it were possible to destroy all the schools in the country in one day; if it were possible to extinguish all the accumulated learning and wisdom of a century in one moment; and if it were possible to dissociate our hearts and souls with all their faculties from our body and drown them in the waters of oblivion, then only would it be possible for us to imagine the extinction of this social energy. It is for this that we have faith in the progress and future of this country; that we believe that no

GRANVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
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BHARAT MIHIR,  
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repressive measures will be powerful enough to cause it to retrace its steps. And if the force of public opinion continues, newspapers also will continue. Why should we then despair of life from fear of Act IX? Why should we despair because the *Som Prakásh* is gone? If Bengal has any existence on the map of the world, then, in the fulness of time, there will spring into existence ten *Som Prakáshes* in lieu of the one that has gone. So long as the Bengali language continues, must native newspapers continue. If the administration really seeks the good of this country, Act IX will not long remain unamended. The discontinuance of the *Som Prakásh*, if not any other circumstance, has doubtless convinced Lord Lytton of the error that was committed in passing Act IX. If the Act be put in force for some time longer, all the able and old newspapers will gradually disappear. Certainly Lord Lytton does not desire such a result. The Editor then invites the co-operation of his readers, subscribers, and correspondents in his efforts to make the paper a first-class journal in Eastern Bengal.

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24. Referring to the recurrence of famines and the poverty of the people, the same paper asks Government to direct its attention to the improvement of the agriculture and economic condition of the country. Government should in this matter take the initiative, as it has done in the case of education, and the people will then follow. Agricultural colleges should be set up.

Famines and agriculture.

BHARAT MIHIE.

25. In another article, the same paper gives the substance of Mr. Hyndeman's article in the *Nineteenth Century* on the Bankruptcy of India, and approves of the suggestions of that writer. The Editor asks Government to reduce the expenses of the administration by substituting native for European labour, to attend to the improvement of the agriculture of the country, and to curtail the Home and the Army charges. India is not England; and hence it is that things are done in this country which would never be tolerated in England.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 26th April 1879.*